

LEGEND

1

Canoe Marker



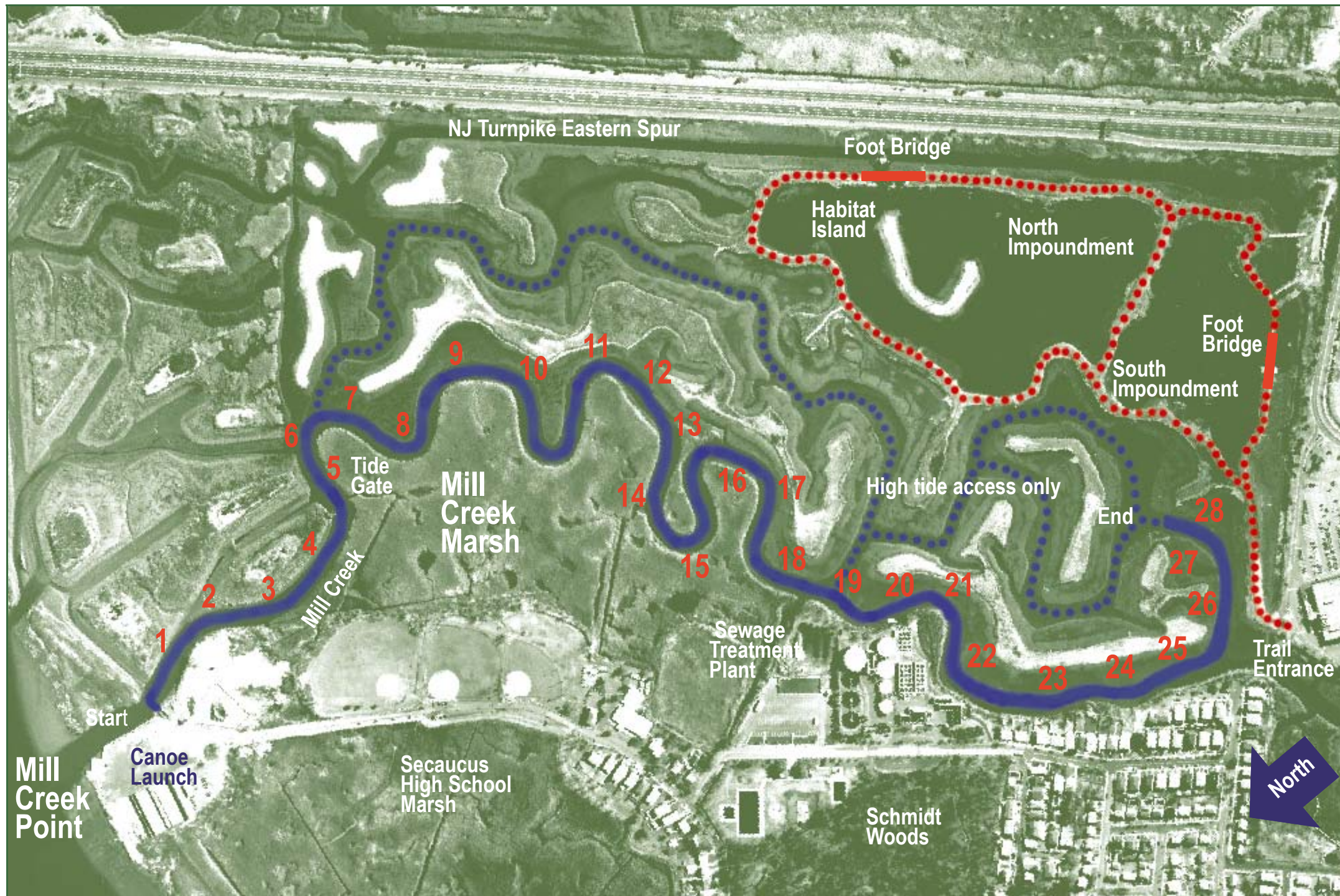
Canoe Trail
(1½ miles one way)



Canoe Trail
(1 mile one way –
high tide access only)



Walking Trail
(1½ mile loop
Handicap Accessible)





Please do not throw away this Canoe Guide. Be kind to the earth. Keep it for future reference, or pass it on. Thank you.

Governor

James E. McGreevey

Chairman

Susan Bass Levin

Commissioners

James A. Anzevino

Michael J. Gonnelli

Leonard R. Kaiser

Mia M. Macri

Eleanore S. Nissley

Arleen F. Walther

Executive Director

Robert R. Ceberio



Canoe ramp funded by
DEP National Recreational Trail Grant



**New Jersey
Meadowlands Commission**

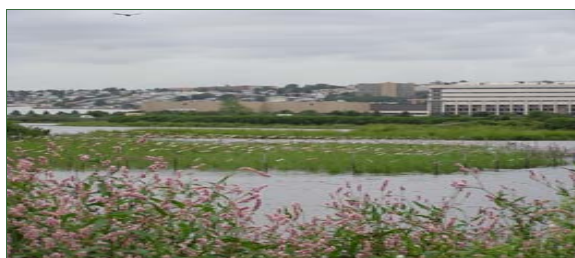
One DeKorte Park Plaza

Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

Phone: 201-460-1700 • Fax: 201-460-8434

Mill Creek Point CANOE TRAIL

Secaucus, New Jersey



**New Jersey
Meadowlands Commission**

Mill Creek Marsh

The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) acquired Mill Creek Marsh in 1996 and began wetland enhancement in 1998.

Wetland enhancement improves a wetland degraded by human activity and fosters a healthy ecosystem. The enhancement of Mill Creek Marsh brought about dramatic results. More than 260 species of migratory shore birds and a variety of waterfowl use the area for resting and breeding. Thousands of green wing teal have been counted. Heron, egrets, and cormorants fish in the waters. Raptors, hawks, and osprey may be seen soaring in the air.

Before you begin your canoe adventure

Bring along:

 **A Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD)**

 **A paddle**

 **A buddy**

 **A whistle**

We also recommend bringing water, bug spray, sunscreen and binoculars

Be aware of the tides

The tide will affect what you will see. At high tide the Mill Creek shoreline is covered by 6½ feet of water. At low tide we see exposed mudflats 1 foot below the waterline. The water channels will vary depending upon the flow of the tide. If the tide is going out, the channel will be narrow. If the tide is coming in, the channel will be broad.

Look for daily tide information:

See: www.tides.com

 **Region:** Mid-Atlantic

 **Port:** Hackensack River, Mill Creek Entrance

This trail is suitable for intermediate Canoeists.

Highlights along the canoe trail

Mill Creek Point

Sawmills and gristmills operated in Secaucus since the 1760's. Mills were located along tributaries that flow into the Hackensack River and were powered by tidal currents. There is evidence that in the 1840's a mill was built along the bank of Mill Creek. Later the area was used as farmland: fruits, vegetables and grain were sent to the nearby cities. A new building was raised at the mouth of Mill Creek in 1940 which operated as the Old Mill Inn restaurant and marina until the mid 1980's. In 2000 the Town purchased the property.

Canoe Trail Marker #5

Here you see an old tide gate. In 1895 mosquitoes were identified as carriers of malaria, starting an era of wetland destruction. Representatives from 18 neighboring municipalities formed the Mosquito Extermination Committee. The committee drafted a bill declaring any water in which mosquito larvae bred a nuisance to be abated. Dikes were used to drain wetlands and tide gates were built across creeks to lower water levels. Approximately 18,000 acres of salt marsh were drained in the Meadowlands.

Canoe Trail Marker #18

Secaucus has been involved in the collection and treatment of wastewater since the 1930's. The Sewage Treatment Plant is one of the only publicly owned treatment plants in the area. Raw wastewater is collected and treated before it is discharged, as clean effluent, into Mill Creek.

Canoe Trail Marker #28

The stumps you see are remnants of an old cedar forest. At one time Atlantic White Cedar forests grew throughout the Meadowlands. The cedar trees stood up to 90 feet tall and were used by early settlers to build houses, canoes, roads (such as Paterson Plank Road), barrels and furniture. Cedar is rot resistant and can last for years. The forest existed until the early 19th century.